

House Unit Seeks To Cut Salaries of Some Nixon Staff

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A House committee took a swing at curbing "powerful" but "anonymous" White House aides yesterday, ordering President Nixon to cut salaries of some key staff members and to eliminate bureaucratic misdirection around his office.

The vote in the Post Office-Civil Service Committee was 14-to-4.

Democratic House members generally thought the pay-classification idea was a good one while Republicans hinted that it was an attempt to punish White House legal staffers working on the President's impeachment defense team.

Rep. Morris K. Udall (D-Ariz.) said there was nothing political or personal in his pay-limiting amendment to the White House request, which would have continued carte blanche authority for the President to pay salaries he deems appropriate.

Udall argued that the White House staff under Democrats and Republicans has become inflated with high-priced aides who choke off input from the Cabinet, Congress and federal agencies.

White House staff—to five at \$42,500, five more at \$40,000, 10 at \$38,000 and 15 at \$36,000. If enacted by Congress, and signed into law, that would force Mr. Nixon to cut eight of his top aides more than \$6,500 each.

Rep. Edward Derwinski (R-Ill.) frequently twitted Udall, a dark-horse Democratic presidential contender, that he might be limiting his own future staff. Udall, who said Derwinski could be his Postmaster General if he wanted to, said he fully expected that a Democrat will occupy the White House in 1977 and that he wants to "box in" any future President to a system that will hold down the number, and pay, of his hired help.

Rep. John Rousselot (R-Calif.) said the current fad in Washington is "it-is-cute-to-attack-the-President," and that Udall's limiting amendments struck him as a partisan attempt to hurt the President's legal staff.

According to committee statistics, the White House now has 13 executives at \$42,500, another 21 making \$36,000 to \$40,000 and 30 between \$30,000 and \$36,000. The modified White House request before the committee would have given the President authority to employ 15 persons at \$42,500, another 25 at \$40,000 and others he considered necessary up to \$36,000 a year.

Udall's amendment would limit those jobs—not the en-